

FRS NEWSLETTER

Volume 6- Issue # 35 - September 2002

Dear FRS-Holland Friends!

Welcome, we leave the 2002 Summer behind us preparing for the autumn and winter. Hopefully all of you have enjoyed their Summer holidays although the strange weather may have spoilt some fun!

Welcome to those persons who have recently subscribed to the FRS Newsletter and thanks to all of you encouraging us with positive comments! Much appreciated... Activity on the SW bands is always somewhat low compared with the months to come. That's the reason the SW news is not as comprehensive as usual. Realize we do our best to inform you with as much news as possible but sometimes we have to decide deleting and/or leaving out items because of lack of space or because we feel it has no newsvalue. In other words: do not expect us to report about every test transmission or QSO. If that would be the case, we would need twice as many pages. August saw the Merchweiler and Baarle-Nassau DX-meetings, in September a DX-meeting was organized in Gronau. All-time FRS engineer Bobby Speed and I attended the meeting in Baarle-Nassau meeting and we had a good time. Another interesting date was Saturday August 31st: that day it was exactly 28 years ago (in 1974 it was also a Saturday...) the Dutch stations Veronica and RNI had to closed down. That day Radio 192 broadcasted from the MV Minerva off Scheveningen. And offshore enthusiasts were offered the chance to climb aboard. I was on the Minerva and it was a fantastic day. Radio 192 represents the spirit of the old Veronica and did a great job not only that day but the whole week prior to that Saturday. How great that such a station is alive 'n' kickin' in 2002....

Peter V.
73%, Peter V.

FRS Broadcasting Activities

When you read this FRS-Holland has just been or will soon be on air. Let's hope we are just in time and this late Summer edition will reach you before the actual broadcast. September 21st/22nd FRSH can be heard with a 24 hour broadcast. Just like Sept. 2001, we have decided to avoid the 48 mb in favor of 41 metres. Most likely FRS will be heard on 7450 kHz starting sometime in the Saturday afternoon. Our 4 hour schedule will be repeated time after time until the Sunday evening. We aim to start at such time that the Sun morning repeat is to be heard between approx. 09.30- 13.30 CEST (07.30-11.30 UTC), just like any 'normal' Sunday morning. Over the Summer period we have been inactive knowing that propagation was mostly (very) poor making it a waste of time to put out a lengthy broadcast. So, we have saved our energy for the upcoming months! We have planned our 22nd Birthday on air celebrations late October (27th) and we hope to do a X-Mas broadcast Dec. 15th or 22nd. We did already announce to be willing to test on 41 and 31 metres at different times/ days. This will eventually take place in the next few weeks and months. A new antenna was constructed and this will be tested out. Tests could take place at any moment, even during weekdays in the evening hours!! In some cases we will let you know via E-mail. The FRSH spirit will be widely heard in the months to come propagating "A Balance between Music and Information joined to one format, the FRS concept tastes different, just a bit different."

*** NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS *** NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS ***

< frs.holland@hccnet.nl >.

P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, the Netherlands

SW FREE RADIO SCENE

General

In this late Summer 2002 edition we cover the period July 7th- September 9th.

Propagation

As the Summer is almost behind us, the SW propagation is improving. Night time reception is getting worse (signals fading out earlier in the evening) while Sun morning reception is getting better. Sun July 14th and 21st (very) poor conditions, Sun July 28th conditions going up and down, Sun August 4th reception conditions were appalling. A week later on the 11th during the famous Merchweiler DX camp things were much better. Sun August 25th conditions were fair, a week later in the first Sept. weekend propagation was good. Sept. 8th and 15th propagation on SW was fair to good.

☐ The DX meeting in Gronau taking place on Sat/Sun Sept. 7th/8th ended up in a raid. Sat evening Sept. 7th at approx. 20.20 CEST, a Bundespost

officer and 4 policemen suddenly appeared at the DX-camp site and confiscated a SW transmitter, modulator and CD player. The transmitter was operating on 6276 at the moment the action took place. The tx was used to put out Radio Dynamix programming. As far as we have heard, the action didn't go smoothly. A few pirates offering resistance had to be calmed down by means of pepperspray. Two persons who attended the meeting suffered from minor injuries.

☐ **RADIO 222** is looking for any shortwave stations that can help broadcast their tapes for two days "Saturday and Sunday". Radio 222 staff were already active on Radio 222 in the 1969-1975 period. In those days the station was to be heard on 222m/ 1350 kHz medium wave. The station is located in the north-west of the UK in the Merseyside area. For more info surf to < radio.222.tripod.com >. E-mail add is < radio222@easy.com >.

☐ We met Alfred, the OP of **RADIO ALFA LIMA** (3) at the Baarle-Nassau meeting on Sat August 24th. We had a nice long talk (and some good laughing as well) about various aspects of SW Free radio. Alfred- a very nice chap driving around in a huge American classic car- told us that RAL is concentrating on 48 and 19 metres. At the moment there's no activity on 21 MHz. 15070 is being used (almost) every week from Saturday evening into the night till Sunday mornings. These trms are targeted at Northern America and other remote areas. Response for these trms is encouraging provided propagation is favourable. Sun mornings RAL is putting out its usual live programming with phone-ins, music and Alfred's speech. Frequencies vary between 6260 and 6305 kHz, mostly around 6295. In recent weeks RAL was a few times to be heard on 6260 which is in Alfa Lima terms quite low. Sun August 18th RAL went as low as 6252, a freq hardly used by any FR stations these days. On 48 metres RAL pxs are noted with excellent strength and modulation. E-mail: < alinter@rendo.dekooi.nl >. Website: < www.alfalima.net >.

☐ **ANTONIA RADIO** was heard in the late evening of Sat August 10th. Frequency was 6275 kHz. Sun August 18th the station was heard in the early afternoon on and just below 6260. Power is 25W connected to an Inverted V. E-mail add is < antonioradio@hotmail.com >. Snailmail: Fuik 12, 8081 KD Elburg in the Netherlands.

☐ **RADIO BORDERHUNTER** was heard with only 20W from Luxembourg Thurs August 15th. Most likely this was coming from a holiday location? Sun July 21st Borderhunter was monitored on 7490 and Sun August 11th Borderhunter was on 48 metres 6210 and 7490. At least on 41 metres the station was live on air. New address is P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, the Netherlands.

☐ **RADIO BRIGITTE** is back under its original name. For some time the station used a different and rather unspeakable name. Sun July 28th 6307 and 6374. Sun August 4th 6540 Sun August 18th saw Brigitte on 6307. The station is now using a brandnew address: P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, the Netherlands. E-mail: < radiosunflower@hotmail.com >

☐ **RADIO CAVENDISH** from the UK was heard on 6277 Sat August 3rd. The station is rarely to be heard. We suspect this is the same Radio Cavendish being active in the late 70s/ early 80s. We do not have any address.

☐ **RADIO DE CASANOVAS** was noted on 6275 Sun July 21st and 28th. Sun August 11th a special px was aired on the occasion of the Merchweiler DX-Camp. Sun Sept. 1st De Casanovas returned on 6275, it looks like this freq is the station's new home frequency. Add is P.O.Box 46, 7160 AA Neele, The Netherlands. E-mail is < mario@hetnet.nl >.

☐ **CLASSIC ROCK RADIO** (3) returned following a few month's absence on SW Sun Sept. 1st. Pxs went out on 7475 and both signal and mod quality were excellent. Pxs lasted till just before 09.00 UTC.

☐ **CRAZY WAVE RADIO** (5) from Germany was using 6260 kHz Sat July 6th and Sun July 7th in the late evening. The station's two deejays are Chris Ise and Andy Walker. Both are dyed in the wool when it comes to SW free radio! Sat August 31st CWR was once again on air in the evening hours. First part of the transmission a very strong signal was provided, later on in the evening the signal almost faded out.

☐ **RADIO DELTA ELBURG** was heard in poor quality on 6278 Sat August 10th. Address is P.O.Box 41, 8080 AA Elburg in the Netherlands.

☐ **RADIO DEVALON** (5) was heard via the European Relay Service Sun August 25th. at the start of trms the frequency was 6205 but unfortunately the signal was drifting ending up on 6203. Moreover: due to a strong unknown station on 6201 part of RDI's programme was un audible, the signal was totally eliminated. Radio Devalon is a station concentrating on producing serious programmes, it is sad that part of the broadcast was unheard. Originally it was planned to go on air on 41 metres. We do not



know why this plan didn't come off. Good news was that the Aug. 25th trm was repeated on 6289 a week later. This time a fair/ good signal went out via the ERS although the tx was still drifting.

▢ The EUROPEAN RELAY SERVICE (10) made its debut on Sun August 25th. That morning Radio Devalon Int. was relayed but this was certainly not a success because the tx was drifting (VFO not 100% stable?) and an unknown Dutch (?) pirate "swallowed" ERS' signal. Alex Warner who was involved with Eastside Radio is the keyfigure behind this initiative. Interested stations who would like to be relayed, should write to the Swedish Ytterby address. During part of the RDI relay, a fair signal was noted.

▢ EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO will likely become active in the upcoming months. At this moment there are no dates however. We will await further news and hope to inform you in our October DX Show. Add is P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten. E-mail: <londonarchive@aol.com>.

▢ The FARMERS FROM HOLLAND were heard in the early evening hours of Sun August 11th. Freq was 6284. It looks like the station has learned from the past and is only so now and then on air rather than each week. Website: <www.FarmersFromHolland.tk>. E-mail: <farmers@gmx.net> or <Studio@FarmersFromHolland.tk>. The address is P.O.Box 108 in 7720 AC Dalfsen in the Netherlands.

▢ RADIO FOX 48 (10) was on 6280 Sun July 14th. During the trm the moderator was reacting against the polkasound. In his opinion far too many SW stations are playing this typical Dutch kind of music. Although we do understand his opinion, we feel that the SW free radio bands without polka sounds are like the Farmers without a Rohde & Schwarz tx.... Sun August 11th 6265 was in use with a lengthy programme.

E-mail: <radiofox48@hotmail.com>.

▢ RADIO FREE LIMBURG was heard with fine signals using 6205 Sat July 6th. E-mail address is <pa92@hetnet.nl>.

▢ Dutch RADIO GALAXY was heard on 7490 Sun August 25th and six days later on 6306. In SW Free Radio land it often happens different stations are using the same name. And Galaxy is not an exception. In the past there was a German Radio Galaxy but that one is inactive for already a very long period. In the UK there's also a Radio Galaxy which may still be active on an irregular basis. The station put out a fairly weak signal on 41 metres. E-mail: <radiogalaxy@hotmail.com>.

Website: <galaxy.homestead.com/index.html>.

▢ British RADIO GERONIMO (10) was heard on 7535 Sun June 23rd 19.30- 20.30 hours. Sunday 7th July Geronimo was on 7520kHz at 1900 till 2015hrs with a Dave Scott program and some nice continuous music. Some reports for the evening of 7th gave them a very strong signal in the UK on 7520kHz. During that occasion, Chris Watson was using a 41mb half wave loop antenna (triangle shape) hanging from a tree, this may have made better reception over the usual inverted "V". Sun August 18th 6255 kHz was in use. It was one of the station's rare 48 mb trms as nowadays Geronimo is mostly to be found on 31 and 41 metres. Sun Sept. 1st at 18.00 UTC Geronimo was heard with a fair signal on 6280.

E-mail: <radiogeronimo@hotmail.com>.

▢ Sat July 27th RADIO GRENSLANDER was heard testing on a number freqs including 6965, 7450 and 7485. Signals were very low. A day later 7455 was used but also this time a very poor signal was radiated. Sun July 21st the station was testing on 7485 in USB. Better results were made August 31st on 3925 and Sept. 1st on 3925 and 3945.

▢ Although July 15th was announced in the previous edition, INTERNATIONAL MUSIC RADIO restarted trms on 13840 via Radio 510/ IRRS July 6th. The next day a repeat was noted on the same freq.

▢ JOLLY ROGER RADIO 6245 August 4th P.O.Box 39, Waterford, Republic of Ireland. E-mail: <jr_radio@hotmail.com>.

▢ RADIO JOYSTICK was heard with good signals via the IRRS tx on 11840 kHz Sat August 3rd & 17th and Sun July 21st and August 11th. RJ is one of the stations from Germany which already was active in the 1980s. The station is a one-man operation ran by Charle Prince who is in the mean time a SW "veteran". Add is P.O.Box 100812, D-45408 Mülheim. E-Mail add remains <chapri@gmx.de>.

▢ RADIO KORAK INT. was heard on 3927 Sat July 14th, August 3rd & 24th. P.O.Box 134 in 3780 BC Voorthuizen in the Netherlands.

▢ RADIO KREATIV is a new station which was to be heard on 76 metres 3925 Fri evening August 30th. A fair signal was noted, an E-mail was not announced. Address is P.O.Box 134, 3780 BC Voorthuizen in the Netherlands.

▢ LASER HOT HITS can be heard on three freqs which are in prallel with each other: 9385 kHz on 31 metres, 7465/ 41 metres and 6219/ 48 metres. Reception varies between almost inaudible to good depending on what time of the day you are tuning in. Reception in the UK is better as LHH transmits from Irish soil. Add remains P.O.B 293, Merlin, Ontario NOP

1WO in Canada. Don't confuse LHH with Laser Radio. The latter carried out tests on 5935 kHz.

▢ RADIO LIKEDEELER was heard on 7510 Sun July 21st (poor signal), 6290 Sun July 28th. This was a test from a new location resulting in a strong signal. , 6284 Sun August 4th. 6294 and 6210 were used Sun August 18th. A switch to 6210 was made following a call. A week later Likedeeler was noted on 6307 and 7485 kHz. Sept. 1st saw Likedeeler on 7494 with only a poor signal. Address is P.O.Box 73, 7160 AB Nede, the Netherlands.

▢ RADIO MARABU remains active via a handful of outlets. Not only on SW but also on FM and satellite! Sat July 13th Marabu was heard with a 24 hour broadcast on 6210. An IRRS relay was aired on 13840 Sun July 28th. Sat and Sun Sept. 7th/8th Marabu was heard with fair to good signals on 6210 kHz. Pxs of Marabu are worth while to listen to! Add is P.O.Box 1166, D-49187 Belm, Germany. E-mail: <marabu@radiomarabu.de>. Website: <www.radiomarabu.de>.

▢ RADIO MI AMIGO from the UK was heard with live programming on 6299 Sat/Sun July 6th & 7th. Trms on the Internet were in parallel with the SW outlet putting out only 12W. Add is P.O.Box 53, Bilstone WV14 6YS, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, UK.

▢ RADIO NORTHPOLE from the Netherlands made one of its rare trms on 6280 on Sat July 6th. Later that month Northpole was noted on 7490. Add is P.O.Box 170, 6940 AB Didam, the Netherlands.

▢ RADIO NIGHTFLY is a new appearance on the SW bands. The station was heard in the mid evening hours of Sat July 20th. Nightfly tested on 6283 and 6287. Signal quality was fair. Sat August 10th the station was heard on 6259 announcing the following E-mail add: <nightfly@aol.com>.

SW ADDRESSES ** SW ADDRESSES ** SW ADDRESSES ** SW ADDRESSES

3 = POBox 663, 7900 AR Hoogeveen, The Netherlands

4 = POBox 130, 92504 Rueil-Cedex, France.

5 = POBox 1136, D-06201 Merseburg, Germany (new!)

10=SRS, Ostra Porten 29, 442 54 Ytterby in Sweden

▢ RADIO NOVA INT. has been missing for a few months. However, there is some good news as the station is planning to return in the near future. More news in the October DX Show. Address: RNI, c/o P.O.Box 130 in 92504 Rueil Cedex France. RNI requests a SAE from the UK or 2 x IRC's or 2 x US\$ from overseas.

▢ OZONE RADIO announced to be regularly using 7445 kHz/41 metres between 06.30-10.45 UTC. Reason is that too many stations are using the top end of the 48 mb these days. Ozone plans to use the 6280 after 18.00 UTC. Sun Sept. 8th saw Ozone surprisingly on 6240 kHz. Add is 85 Hillside Rd West, Suffolk, NR35 RH in the UK.

E-mail: <bbs4ozone@compuserve.com>.

▢ UK-based POWER RADIO was heard on 76 metres 3930 August 10th. Signal quality was poor. No address was given out.

▢ PRIDE OF THE NETHERLANDS is a new SW station which was noted on 6258 in very good quality Tuesday July 9th. Sun July 21st POTN was on 6210. During the broadcast a mobile tel. number was given out. E-mail address: <potn@hotmail.com>.

▢ A new RELAY FACILITY on SW can be contacted via the following E-mail: <freecom100@aol.com>.

▢ RADIO ROB 007 received a report from as far away as Russia. The listener's location was 800 km south-east of Moscow. The Dutch station was monitored late in the morning on 6398 kHz in thye month of August.

E-mail: <radiorob007@hotmail.com>.

▢ RADIO ROCK is the name of an unknown station which was heard testing on 6280 Sat August 17th/Sun August 18th. The station was noted on the continent at various times including very early in the morning (05.00 UTC) and the early afternoon (10.15 UTC= 12.15 CEST). Non-stop music was aired. Signal strength was fair/ good although the station suffered from De Casanovas' strong 6275 signal at 10.45. During the broadcast a tel. phone was given out as well as an E-mail add: <radiorocksw@msn.com>.

▢ UK ROCKET RADIO was heard testing on 6285 in the late evening of Sat August 10th. It was the station's debut on SW. Signal quality was fair. E-mail is <rocket48@hotmail.com>.

▢ Powerhouse RADIO SPACEMAN is not a very regular station. But when the station is on air, it is putting out one of the strongest signals on the entire free radio SW band. Sun August 25th and Sept. 1st saw Spaceman on 6400. This frequency is often used for qso-ing nowadays. The Spaceman OP declared 6400 gave the best antenna match making him decide to use that channel.



▣ **STAR CLUB RADIO** aired a special commemorative Elvis Presley show on 6240 Sun August 18th. August saw the 25th anniversary of Elvis' death in 1977. SCR is a German oldies station.

▣ **RADIO SUMMERMEETING** was a collaboration of three Dutch stations visiting the Baarle-Nassau meeting in the weekend of August 24th/25th. The stations were Radio Omroep Zuid, Radio Victoria and Radio Titanic (the Dutch one). The spot where the meeting took place was ideal for erecting aerials. One 76 and one 48 mb aerial were erected and live programming took place from the little building at the DX camp site. Pxs were started in the late afternoon on 6275 and 3933 and continued in good.

▣ Following raids in December, February and April, **SWINGING RADIO ENGLAND** was heard on 6204 at 14.10 UTC on Sun Sept. 8th. However, we are unaware whether this was just an old tape or a serious test?? This could have been a relay via the WNKR tx. Perhaps just playing a tape for testing purposes? E-mail: <Swingingradioengland@hotmail.com>.

▣ German **RADIO DR. TIM** (5) is well-known for its "Sondersendungen" (special programmes). In the evening hours of Sun August 11th Dr. Tim was heard with an "After Merchweiler" show on 6260. Freq was changed to 6305 because of increasing utility interference. Fri August 16th a 60 min. commemorative Elvis Presley show was aired on 6297 kHz. A special QSL card was offered to those sending in a correct reception report. Dr. Tim provided a solid signal in Western Europe and even in Finland good reception was noted! Sun

▣ Sun August 11th **RADIO TORENVALK** aired a special trm during the Merchweiler DX camp. Mind you: the px was not coming from the Merchweiler soil but from the usual RTI location. Signal quality on 6296 was excellent. Address is POBox 94, 7038 ZH Zeddam in the Netherlands.

▣ **RADIO TOWER** was heard on 7490 Sun July 7th and 6301 Sun August 4th. The usual powerful signal was heard. Their E-Mail is: <shortwave@netmail.nl>. This one will be closing down in September. New E-mail: <radiotower@hotmail.com>. Add is P.O.Box 49, 7475 ZH Markelo.

▣ **UK RADIO** was heard on 6305 Sun July 28th. Sun August 11th UK Radio was on 6266. Add is P.O.Box 53, Bilstone, WV14 6YS Wolverhampton, West Midlands, the UK.

▣ Sun July 7th Dutch station **UNION RADIO** (3) was noted with the usual quality signals on 6300, 6305 and several freqs between 6385 and 6399. The station was noted in the early evening hours between 17.00 and 18.00 UTC. Power was just under 100W. Union Radio can now be reached via E-mail: <radiounion@hotmail.com>.

▣ **RADIO WAVES INT.** (4) from France aired a special programme in memory of the tragic event of sept 11th 2001. The station was on air on 11401kHz airing a special program called WTC911. In addition RWI announced to be on air Sun Sept. 15th via own txs and also via relay via different stations. Station OP Peter Hills reports that both modulators have been repaired recently. Website: <www.rwi.ht.st> or <go.to/rwi>.

▣ Scottish **WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO** was noted on 7525 kHz Sun July 28th and August 25th. Signal quality was fair. Add used to be 14 Stone Row, Londonderry, BT52 1EP, Coleraine, UK. The E-Mail add should be this one: <wmrsw@37.com>.

▣ **WEST COAST RADIO** can be heard most weekends on various freqs, mostly on or close to 6400 kHz. The station is one of the few Dutch stations broadcasting from the western part of the country. WCR always puts out nice and well-modulated signals using some 80W of power. Sat August 24th saw the station at 07.15 on 6398, later that day the OP went to the Baarle-Nassau meeting where he had some interesting talks with some members of the FRSH crew. Email is <westcoast48@noknok.nl>.

▣ Dave Martin's **WEST & NORTH KENT RADIO** was heard on 48 metres during various occasions in August. Sun July 21st 6205 was in use, Sat/Sun August 24th and 25th the station was heard on 6285, on Sun 9390 was running in parallel with 48 metres. Most of the times the station's signal on the European continent was poor. The 31 mb outlet sometimes provided excellent reception. E-mail is <wnkr@37.com>.

CAROLINE NEWS

Worldspace

July 9th it was announced that a deal between Worldspace and Peter Moore, the entrepreneur currently holding the licence to broadcast as Radio Caroline via satellite from the UK, will bring Radio Caroline to a potential of millions of households across Europe and North Africa. A public awareness campaign from Worldspace, part of which will be included within the UK's media, is set for October. It is expected that Caroline will be launched on Worldspace as part of a 'bouquet' of stations, including the national Virgin Radio, some weeks before the campaign. The deal comes as Worldspace,

desperate to establish itself in the market, had previously reported poor sales and 'pick-up' in its various catchment areas within its footprints. Caroline will be receivable within the UK by anybody with a Worldspace radio receiver, bringing it to a portable platform for the first time. But also in the whole of Europe and vast areas within Africa. Widely rumoured to be a 'reciprocal' arrangement, Caroline's appearance via Worldspace is likely to cost Moore nothing for an initial period of at least 12 months. In return, this will allow Worldspace to advertise an enhanced English speaking content during their autumn marketing campaign. Ahead of appearance on Worldspace, Moore has instructed his team of volunteer broadcasters to sharpen up their act to produce a more professional and consistent output for the UK based station. Part of this knocking into shape has included the banning of Caroline presenters from mentioning on the air any products, websites or radio news groups other than those sanctioned by Moore. Equally banned to the presenters is their writing on any of the internet based discussions and debates, or websites. They are also banned from attending events. Presenters disagreeing with Moore's new 'put up or shut up' policy have been told to leave the station. Moore hopes that by tightening up his ship in this way he can move the UK based operation into the league of the professional commercial operators, leaving behind the current 'amateur' Caroline image that isn't taken seriously by advertising and marketing agencies, or the radio industry as a whole. He is adamant that by launch day on Worldspace, a slicker and more refined 'New Caroline' will have evolved.

In the mean time Caroline has already been testing via Worldspace. In the UK there's a lot of commotion in free radio circles because the new Caroline service will be a Pay-Service. That means that listeners must pay a flat rate each month to be able to tune in to the Worldspace programming. As far as we know, the money is not meant for Caroline only, but also to receive a number of different stations just like Caroline making use of the Worldspace facilities.

Radio Netherlands Media Network reported that Caroline's first appearance on the WorldSpace AfriStar satellite test channel was on Friday 19th July on the west beam. Caroline announced that the station would broadcast on all three beams of AfriStar, so there was some confusion at first. On 23rd July Caroline opened just before 01.00 with opening announcement and Caroline theme. Caroline announced the opening on both Astra and Worldspace and explained that these were test transmissions and that live transmissions would shortly commence on a subscription basis. The latest news is that full programming via Worldspace on the AfriStar satellite was commenced on Tuesday Sept. 9th, it should not be encrypted for a while. On Caroline's website <www.radiocaroline.co.uk> you will find details how to subscribe and how to purchase a special Hitachi Worldspace receiver. If you take a one year subscription to Caroline the price will be reduced from £60 to £40 making an average of £ 3.25 a month.

Mike Hayes can now be heard on Radio Caroline Holland. Mike who now lives in Holland and hadn't been on radio since 35 years, can be heard between 16 and 19 hrs each and every Tuesday. Remember that the programming via the Dutch Caroline website is different from the satellite output. Surf to: <www.radio-caroline.nl> for news, info and webradio.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Laser Radio

British Laser Radio announced to be running their first test broadcast Sunday 7th July 14.00-22.00 UTC on 5935 KHz shortwave, transmitting with 100,000 watts. More tests were carried out 5935 kHz in July (21st) and August, mostly on Sunday evenings. The 5935 outlet is hired from a foreign station, our guess is that trms are coming from a site in the eastern part of Europe. So far no presented pxs were heard, instead non-stop music, jingles and extracts from Laser and Radio Caroline. Pxs which were announced for Sun July 7th were not heard. The station is planning to start via satellite as well. When looking at their website <www.laserradio.net>, the following info is revealed: "No definite launch date has been set, however preparations are continuing for Laser Radio to be available via satellite with possible EPG listing for Sky subscribers. Our satellite broadcasting licence has been issued by the British Radio Authority and we are now undertaking in depth research regarding sales and marketing of the planned service. Keep checking this website for announcements regarding future plans. In the meantime enjoy the music brought to you via live365, if you can't hear it already, then just click the 'on-air' button located to the left." And that implies that right now Laser is to be heard only via the Internet. The station also informs its listeners about "The Communicator Club" which is the place where listeners will be able to find the latest news and information about



whats happening behind the scenes at LaserRadio.net plus special offers and discounts on various merchandise including a free QSL service. Keep listening and checking here - more details of membership benefits and joining details for the Communicator Club will be announced in the near future. Snailmail: BCM Aquarius, London WC1N 3XX, England.

From a Caroline ship to a Caroline island

EuroRadio 2002, the Offshore Echo's / France Radio Club annual event, took place in Calais on Saturday 6th July. This years theme was the radio ship MV Mi Amigo, the home of Radio Caroline during the 1960's & 70's. Guests were Steve England, Paul Rusling and Fred Bolland. As well as video footage of the Mi Amigo, the guests recalled their involvement. Fred Bolland spoke about providing finance for the Dutch service on Caroline, and a number of other offshore stations. Steve England remembered a number of anecdotes, as well as recounting how some of the Caroline jingles came together, while Paul Rusling told how George Harrison had given a number of sums of money to help Caroline. Paul also spoke about the new Isle of Man longwave station and revealed that the offshore aerial platform has officially been named Caroline Island. Pictures of EuroRadio 2002 can be seen at < www.offshoreechos.com >. More pictures and news brief in Offshore Echo's 127, with a full report in OEM 128.

Scandinavian Weekend Radio

Scandinavian Weekend Radio is Scandinavia's first private shortwave station run by approx. 10 enthusiastic Finnish radio-minded persons. In the June edition #34 we paid attention to this interesting Finnish project. The station was heard on 11720 Sat July 6th, Sat Aug. 3rd and also Sat Sept. 7th. On the latter date the station was picked up at 14.30 UTC, that moment reception was fairly good at the FRS monitoring service in the Netherlands. Lower freqs used by the station are far more difficult to catch in Western Europe. Realize the station is only using low power and on higher freqs signals cover much larger areas. E-Mail: < info@swradio.net >. Rec. reports: < raportit@swradio.net >. Website: < www.swradio.net/ >.

Offshore Reunion

On Saturday August 10th 2002, there was a 35th Anniversary Offshore Reunion for sixties offshore personnel (The Wet Club) to commemorate August 14th 1967. Mary and Chris Payne from the Radio London website along with some dedicated offshore radio friends had organised a fantastic event. Many former offshore personalities attended the reunion in The Doggett's Coat and Badge, Blackfriars Bridge in London. The following former offshore personalities were attending this reunion:

Mike Ahearn (Caroline North, South, Paul Alexander [Rusling] (Caroline '73), John Stewart (alias Chris Stewart alias John Aston (KING, 390, Caroline North, South, 270, 355), Nick Bailey (Caroline South, North), Bud Ballou [Howie Castle] (Caroline South), Woolf Byrne (City), Gordon Cruse (Caroline South North), Robbie Dale [Robinson] (Caroline South), Johnny Flux = John Edward (City, London, Graham Gill (London, Britain, England, 390, Caroline North, South, RNI), Mark Hammerton = Mark Sloane (KING, Caroline South, 355, Caroline North, Keith Hampshire (Caroline South, Dave Hawkins (technician on London), Ronan O'Rahilly, Phil Jay (City), Duncan Johnson (London, RNI), Mick Luvzit (Caroline South, North), Roger Scott = Arnold Layne [Greg Bance] (Essex, 270, 390, Caroline North, RNI), Keith Skues (Caroline South, London, Ed Stewart (London, Dave Lee Travis (Caroline South North), Tommy Vance (Caroline South, London), Johnny Walker (England, Caroline South), Willy Walker (London), Graham Webb (Caroline South) and David Williams (Caroline South North). For pictures surf to < www.offshore-radio.de/ >.

RSL Ships

Bob Le Roi has put a few interesting photos on his website. East Anglia Productions boss Ray Anderson (who once bought the MV Communicator from British authorities) has recently purchased two ships which could be used for future RSLs. Photos of these ships can be looked at on < www.bobleroi.co.uk >.

Howard Rose

Mid July we heard the news that Howard Rose had died. Howard was a very talented radio personality. He had a brilliant radio style, his voice was also highly distinctive and reminded people of the old Radio London DJ style. Nonetheless, he somehow integrated his own style into a unique blend of everything that was best about the 60's offshore pirate pop jocks.

Hans Knot, our contributor, wrote the following memorial story covering Howard's life in radio land.

"During the more than 33 years that I'm writing about the medium radio it was never before so difficult looking for words to compile a story. Thursday July 18th 2002, after an operation, Howard G Rose died at the age of 49 years after a heart attack. Most people in radio land knew Howard as Chrispian St. John or Jay Jackson. He was one of the very first British Anoraks who I knew after I started writing for Pirate Radio News in 1969.

Very young, 16 years of age at that stage, Howard wanted to grab and eat everything which had to do with Pirate and Offshore Radio and so he did also read my magazine and got, on regular basis, in contact with me. Of course he started his own station at that time and thus was doing illegal things according to British law working for an unlicensed land based radio station. Although this was a very tiny little one, bigger stations would soon become reality for little Chrispian. It was in 1971 that he, as an 18 year old guy, climbed onboard the MEBO II, the multi-coloured radio ship being the home of Radio North Sea International. There he became part of the international service which supplied us with the perfect sound of 'RNI, the Summer of 71'. Howard learnt a lot from his fellow deejays like Paul May, Martin Kayne and the guy who hired him at that time, Steve Merike. It was also on one of my visits to the Oude Boerenhofstede at Naarden, where the

land based studios of RNI were housed, where I met Chrispian for the very first time. In 1971 he was dismissed by the station and recently he wrote a story of his dismissal in Soundscapes, the online journal for media and music culture at the University of Groningen. See

FRS SALES PRODUCTIONS offers a comprehensive list of tapes from radio stations around the world. This month special R.N.I. and Veronica offers. In addition we have some great material from Radio 192's offshore week. On cassette, CD or MD. Interested? Send us an E-mail: < frs.holland@hccnet.nl > or drop us a line via P.O.Box 2702,

the Spring edition under Volume 4 the article with the title "Getting the sack". < www.soundscapes.info >. But it was not only RNI which took the interest of Howard. In 1972 he went to the station, where he tuned in to in the sixties: Radio Caroline. In March 1968 both Caroline vessels were towed away from the British Coast and went into Amsterdam harbour. After being there and in Zaandam harbour for many years, they were sold for scrap, ordered by the Wijsmuller Tender Company. The Caroline organisation owed them a large amount of money. It was Gerard van der Zee who repurchased the MV Mi Amigo for Ronan O'Rahilly enabling Radio Caroline to return to the airwaves once again. First they started as Radio 199 and being almost winter, the station came in clearly and we enjoyed in particular the Christmas programming in 1972, where Howard, a.k.a. Chrispian, played a key role. It looked like that the station would soon cease again because the crew, which wasn't properly paid by the organization, hijacked the ship and towed it into harbour again. With hard working of the deejays and volunteers, the MV Mi Amigo was soon back at sea and the most famous radio station on Earth was again rocking and rolling from the only place Radio Caroline belongs, the free international waters. It seemed Chrispian was very restless and later, at the end of 1973, he wrote me that he would soon leave for Germany. There, in the harbour of Cuxhaven, a new radio ship would be fitted out under very hard conditions. Even one of the crewmembers died during the outfit of the MV Jeanine. The new ship would be used for Radio Atlantis, which had earlier hired transmission time from Radio Caroline. With their own ship, off the coast of Zeeland, they started also an international service and Chrispian once again was part of a very good team including Steve England, Andy Anderson & Terry Davis. In the Seventies Howard played a role within the Independent Radio, which started with LBC and Capital Radio in 1973 as the first commercial stations in Great Britain. He could be heard at stations like Swansea Sound and Viking Radio, but the sea still had a special place in his heart. It was Abe Nathan's Voice of Peace, a station in the Mediterranean, which was the next station to work for. Howard stayed for many years in the Mediterranean. While doing my research for my book on the history on the Voice of Peace I interviewed a lot of people and every time Chrispian was mentioned as a very good deejay and friend, although some told me that he sometimes could be very pigheaded and tried several times to get things his way. Then more 'Rocking on the Northsea' came for Howard under his nickname Jay Jackson, sometimes adding 'J' in the middle. Not only was he responsible for the newsroom from 1983 on board the MV Ross Revenge, the new Radio Caroline ship, he also made a lot of prestigious album music programs, we will never forget. The combination of the music he played, compared with his knowledge of the music, his excellent voice made it all complete for listening with good pleasure. About his period on board the



MV Ross Revenge Jay Jackson wrote a book called 'The Pirates Who Waive the Rules', a book which didn't get the publicity it deserved. In the eighties Howard played an important role in co-starting the very first golden oldie station in Britain, Radio Sovereign. It became headlines, not only in Britain but also in Western Europe. It was an illegal station and therefore it was one day forced to go off the air, but it returned later at the Riviera in France. Howard was not involved anymore because he preferred to set up his own radio magazine in the UK. After a false start, a second attempt was very successful and The Radio Magazine was born, now already more than 12 years ago. In between he was also one of the co-owners of KCBC, a radio station in his home town Kettering. Just one week before his death, the message came in that Howard and Patricia, his wife, had sold The Radio Magazine and the Gold Crest Communications to a big publisher. It was stated that Howard would be staying as the key role man, but the new step in his career could not last for longer than a week. He is leaving behind Patricia whom he did marry last year, and three children. I hope they have the strength in the time to come to carry this heavy loss. " (Hans Knot). ILR, offshore and the BBC were all well represented at his funeral. Ronan O'Rahilly and dozens of Howards former colleagues - including Tony Allen, Steve England and Carl Kingston attended the funeral. Former colleague Roger Day read a superb eulogy chronicling Howards periods afloat.

Kenny Page

Also in July, another former Caroline jock and VoP Programme Controller Kenny Page died after a long term illness. Kenny did some work in hospital radio. His first programme was 'Ken's Korner' on Radio Clyde in January 1974, and two years later he joined Radio Caroline. The following year he set off for the sunnier Mediterranean, becoming Programme Controller on the Voice of Peace. He then returned to Scotland and Radio Tay in Dundee where he hosted lunchtime and evening programmes. He also became Music Controller at Radio Tay. Kenny was great fun and totally committed to radio. There must be a fantastic radio station up there somewhere. (Paul Rusling)

Joop Verhoof

Thursday July 18th, on the same day Howard Rose passed away, another former Offshore radio personality died. In the Enschede hospital former Mi Amigo deejay Joop Verhoof died from cancer, Joop was 56. He started his career at Radio Atlantis in 1973 before joining Mi Amigo and becoming the station's programme-director. He was amongst the deejays who were forced to leave the Benelux settling down in Spanish Playa de Aro.

Reminiscing...

August 14th many radio stations paid attention to the fact it was on this day in 1967 many British Offshore radio stations left the airways as a next day the MOA became law. On Blast 1386 AM's Breakfast Show, John Ashton and Tom Collins were reminiscing. On BFBS 2 Dave Owen who did a very good oldies show remembering the offshore stations, this program was transmitted worldwide.

The End of Webradio (2) ?

Remember our little newsitem on this issue in the June edition? One of the pioneers of Internet radio in the US has quit. Californian based Watsonville was the first US commercial radio station transmitting its entire output live via the Internet. People behind the station claim they are forced to cease activities following the new law obliging them to pay royalties for every song they play. It would cost 3000 dollar a month. Too much for a small station. Their website will continue to offer copies of pxs recorded in the studio. But no more live radio.

But...

Inspired by Britain's colorful history of pirate radio broadcasting, Iain McLeod wants to save Internet radio. The 39-year-old McLeod, a game designer who works out of his home in England, is the author of Streamer, a new software program designed to let people create online radio stations that are difficult for the authorities to trace.

Cary plans Nova return

An interesting newsitem which appeared on our newsdesk by the end of July: Chris Cary is planning to relaunch Radio Nova on 252kHz, Ireland's long wave frequency. Cary, who changed the face of Irish radio in 1981 with the original Radio Nova, now lives on the Isle of Man and wants to base the station's studios in Douglas. "Everything I can possibly do to bring back Radio Nova on 252LW is being done," he says. "This has got to be the biggest minefield of negotiations ever. Everyone agrees that it's right - but no one will say 'yes'. It's not about money. It's just bloody-mindedness. It's very frustrating." UK sports station TeamTalk 252 replaced Atlantic 252 on the famous frequency at the start of this year, but have failed to attract listeners. Ironically, back in the mid-eighties with the internationally-assigned frequency lying idle, Cary himself was the first to broadcast from Ireland on long wave when he ran tests.

Radio Mi Amigo RSL

Following approval by the UK Radio Authority, the community radio station was launched Thursday August 8th 2002. Radio Mi Amigo hit the airwaves from the former Trinity House Lightvessel No 18 being moored in Harwich harbour. It was playing a range of music from the 1950s through to the present day until September 4th when the 28 day licence ended. The project was co-funded by the East of England Development Agency and the Harwich Connexion community fund. The station's broadcasts on 1503 kHz AM were regularly picked up outside the UK.

Where are they now?

Former Caroline deejay Keith Francis has reoriented him and can now be heard on Bridge FM on 102.1 FM in Budapest Hungaria. He presents a program on weekdays' evenings *** Senior listeners will know him from Caroline South en Caroline North. Then he started working for the BBC followed by a number of ILR stations. Recently he was active on Classic Gold, now he has started working at 'The Army Radio Network' also known as 'Garrison Radio'. It's the British army's own military broadcaster in the UK and around the world. Of course we are talking about Dave Lee Travis. Trms are aired via 1287 & 1350 kHz on low power and via < www.garrisonradio.com >. Tune in on Sundays 10.00-13.00 UK time to hear Dave Lee's voice on the wireless. DL Travis' comment: "I'm really looking forward to this new challenge. Finding out what the "great" British Army like to talk about, and getting feedback from the audience will help shape the show, but mainly its got to be about having real fun and having a laugh, 'cause that's what its all about. Independent radio is where its all happening and it will be a great thrill to be broadcasting to huge military bases across the UK." *** Since Monday September 2nd Peter van Dam is back on the radio on weekdays. He is to be heard on Radio Royal in Hamont Achel in Belgium. He's hosting the breakfast show. Peter started his career on Radio 199 as Peter Brian way back in 1972. Other offshore stations he worked for were Atlantis, Caroline and Mi Amigo.

God's Message

Merlin Communications International, since a few months part of Vosper Thornycroft, has made a deal with Family Radio, a religious SW broadcaster. MCI is relaying 7 hours of Family Radio pxs each day on SW. Relays emanate from different sites within the UK, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates and the Ascension Isles. Next Summer both parties will decide whether the deal will be continued.

MADE IN HOLLAND

Offshore Radio Week

August 26th saw the start of the week of the offshore radio stations on Radio 192. Readers of this Newsletter will know that Radio 192 has very strong ties with the former Radio Veronica (offshore). The station was offered a number of interesting nostalgic recordings for this special event and as a result some very exclusive old radio programs could be heard on the station. Also former deejays from offshore days were guest to do live programming: Erik de Zwart (Paul de Wit on Caroline), Hans Hoogendoorn (Hans ten Hooge on RNI) and Joost den Draayer (RNI, Veronica) who asked himself "why the hell we do remember it after 28 years!" Highlight was Saturday August 31st. Radio 192 had hired the MV Minerva which sailed to open seas off the Scheveningen coast at 09.15 in the morning. All Radio 192 programmes that day were presented live from the ship by former offshore personalities. Names such as Will Luikinga (Veronica), Peter van Dam (Mi Amigo), Bart van Leeuwen (Veronica and Mi Amigo), Marc Jacobs (Mi Amigo), Hans Hoogendoorn (RNI) and Ferry Maat (RNI) were to be heard that day playing the music from the era they were working for one of the offshore stations. Anoraks had the chance to climb aboard the Minerva. The sea was rather choppy creating an atmosphere like in the good old days. During the Baken 16 programme presented by Marc Jacobs and Bart van Leeuwen, the first specimen of the new Radio 192 oldies double-cd was presented on the radio. At the same time a number of former deejays who were aboard the Minerva, were sweeping away bottles in the North sea enclosing letters for people to get a free copy of the Radio 192 CD. (Hans Knot)

THE RADIO CAROLINE STORY FROM THE INSIDE

- Book Review by Hans Knot -

Some weeks ago a 118 pages book, called 'The Radio Caroline Story from the inside' found his way into my postbox. It was sent over from America by the author, whom I had met once in 1995 when we were doing a one time show after each other on the MV Ross Revenge, one of the ships used by Radio Caroline. That time it was in the harbour of London and it was great to remember that ring some e mail contacts lately. But the



author of the book, Tom has a lot more memories to this Radio Station as he did work there in the very early days of the station, from 1964 up till 1967. It's good once again to read a book, which isn't written by a journalist or a historian as those little things, which can only be remembered by the people who did work for the station, appear in this book too. The story for Tom Lodge started sitting in a posh bar at London's King's Road when he did comment to the bar tender about the music which was played in the pub. At that moment a young Irish guy started to talk to Tom and promised good music in the future. When Tom asked where he talked about, the Irish guy told him about the plans to start a radio station from international waters. So Tom, who came from Canada - where he was born in 1936, joined the team from the very first day. After the introduction he talks about several things and that's where I learnt the first thing, which wasn't in any book before. Radio Caroline, before using the famous 6 Chesterfield Gardens address, had an office at the station in Holborn. Also, when talking about the merger with the competitor, Tom tells some nice inside stories. For instance the little fight he had with Simon Dee about a box with the top 40 songs. There was only one, on the MV Frederica, the ship that would become Radio Caroline North and there it stayed with thanks for Tom winning the fight. When the day came that both stations would use the same name and Radio Atlanta was a blast of the past, Simon Dee would take the box to the MV Mi Amigo. The fight ended with a win for Lodge. Another excellent chapter is the one he tells about the long trip with the MV Frederica from the South East coast of Britain to the North West coast off the Isle of Mann. They were totally surprised about the enormous amount of people who were on the beaches, during the trip. Of course they knew about the sailing of the ship, due to the fact that Jerry Super Leighton and Tom Lodge did live reports about the trip, assisted by captain Hangerfelt. But when arriving off the coast of Manx the response was none. And that Tom enjoyed the fact that the walls of the conservative, and stuffy, were tumbling down, can be read in the chapter about him touring with the Rolling Stones. But also very bad weather with Gale Force 12 is part of to be a popular offshore radio deejay, as Tom recalls happening directly after the Stones concert. Also nice is to hear how Tom Lodge started the career of the Who by rescue their first single, 'I can't explain', from the regular sport sessions from the deejays: using 45's and LP's as Frisbees. In their ears those records were too bad to play on the station. However with the rescue it reached number 8 in the chart; a good start for The Who. Many more chapters made me enjoy reading the book, including the one in which Tom describes how he became the man to reorganize the Caroline South station, which had lost audience to the then new radio station, Wonderful Radio London. He succeeded in getting permission from Ronan O'Rahilly, who had bought co-owner Crawford out, to get most of the presenters off the ship, to be replaced by a younger funny team. But also on the Caroline South ship Tom Lodge and his mates had to see that the sea can be a very rough element. Even the MV Mi Amigo was beached in 1966, which brought some very scary minutes. At the end the ship was taken to Zaandam harbour for repairs. And to read the story about the visit to Rough Tower, which became very dangerous for Tom and Ronan, is also very interesting to be included into the book. However a pity is that the photograph placed to this chapter has nothing to do with Rough Sands, as this is one of the other former towers, which were built during World War 2. As many other people in the past, Tom also misuses the name 'Frederica' in his book and not 'Fredericia' as the Radio Caroline North ship was officially named until it was scrapped in the early eighties in Ouwkerk aan de IJssel in Holland. Also the female owner of Radio Syd, who lent her radio ship temporary to the Caroline organization, had nothing to do with classical music. Tom talks about Brit Wagner instead of Brit Wadner. As I wrote earlier, it's nice to read the inside story as written down by a radio deejay but in chapter 17 he describes how he and his fellow deejay Dave Lee Travis get in action with the British Navy, who try to get hold on the radio ship. He describes how they were talking to the lads on the navy ships, on air versus Radio Caroline and how they played songs like '19th Nervous Breakdown' by the Rolling Stones and 'Sunny afternoon' by the Kinks. Also he tells the readers that the next day the registration by the Panamanian Parliament was withdrawn. Well there Tom's memories were on the run. The navy came in on April 4th 1964 and the registration was officially withdrawn two days later. So no Rolling Stones and No Kinks music. Of course it's nice to write 'easy to read' stories but if you want 'The Radio Caroline Story from the inside' try to be secure as possible. Most interesting was to read that some years ago Tom was asked by a personal friend for years to visit a guy in Canada who worked for MI 5 in the sixties and who got the order to take action, with the SAS, to board the radio ship. Lucky enough at that time it didn't happen and millions could still have pleasure with the programming of Radio Caroline for many years. And talking about MI 5, in one of the last chapters Tom is telling us about 'The raise and fall of Radio Caroline'. He's telling us that Ronan wanted in 1969 'veejays' instead of deejays, using video. Well video recorders were just on the market and Ronan had a total other idea and the round up of this chapter, that the planes, Ronan would have used, were blown up by people of the MI 5, is also nonsense. The idea of Caroline TV was only in the mind of Ronan and he only used it to get free publicity in the European Press. Nevertheless as Tom Lodge brings in many personal memories which were not brought before, the true anorak and radio lover has to buy this book, which can be ordered by going to < www.unisatsang.org/things >

SWR- a Radio Enthusiasts' Dream

- The Story written by SWR member Tex Willer -

Through the decades radio amateurs and DX-listeners have also been pioneers in broadcasting. In the beginning of the 20th century many broadcasting pioneers around the world were radio amateurs. In the 1970's there were again a huge amount of new radio stations on the air in many European countries. Now the enthusiasts were mostly DX-listeners. Through the years the enthusiastic pioneers have been broadcasting illegally without licenses. How it's possible, that broadcasting has always been so close to the hearts of so many active radio enthusiasts? Over a century of experience in the end of the 1980's some active Finnish radio enthusiasts started to form a loose group. They were radio amateurs, DX-listeners, pirates, scanner listeners and CB'ers. They were men from different parts of Finland. Men, who always wanted to reach out for

something new and different. Men, who were eager to do something special first. In 1999 the group was in a critical situation. They desperately wanted to break through and really have a ball. Go, where no man has gone before. Just for their own mental stability. Those 10 men had altogether almost 200 years of radio experience. That's why it would be quite difficult to find something totally new in the radio world. Broadcasting. In shortwaves! Most bands and modes were already heard and done. When the group continued to discuss about the possibilities, they found themselves again and again talking about the same subject: broadcasting. In Finland broadcasting is the most limited part of the radio as a hobby. FM was out of question, nothing new there. In mediumwaves there has been Finnish legal stations already on the air. TV sounded a bit too expensive for us poor enthusiasts. There were no legal equipment available for the long waves and we doubted if we can build it ourselves. But... how about the shortwaves? An idea about the legal shortwave station hit like zillion volts. Or watts. That hasn't been done in Finland before. Until now. Quick connections to different parties proved, that in theory this could be done. The biggest problem was to find a legal transmitter. Also it would be nice, if the station could be founded with only a handful of dollars. Or without. But everything can be done. If there's a will, there's a way. And there was a will. Victory! Many kinds of resources and talents emerged inside the group. The transmitters were built by ourselves, tested in own workplace and approved by the Finnish DTI/FCC. The association was founded. The station building was reconstructed. The studio was built. The licenses were applied. Scandinavian Weekend Radio The results of the enthusiasts' work were heard on the dear airwaves already less than one year after the GO!-decision. In the town of Virrat, in the village of Liedenhöjja operates the Scandinavian Weekend Radio. SWR started broadcasting in shortwaves 2. July 2000. SWR is the first and only independent, commercial, private shortwave station in the Nordic Countries (Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland). SWR broadcasts every first Saturday of the month at 00.00 - 24.00 Finnish time. In wintertime that is UTC + 2 hours and at summertime UTC + 3 hours. SWR is also on the air in some special occasions, for example at Christmas. Until 5. May 2001 SWR was broadcasting only in 25 meters in 11690 and 11720 kHz. 2. June 2001 SWR started to use another transmitter. It operates in 48 mb, where the frequencies are 5980, 5990 and 6170 kHz. In 25 mb the reception is best in Central-Europe and the British Isles, but SWR has also received several reports from USA. In 48 mb the reception is better in Finland and the areas close to Finland. The transmitter power in both bands has been around 50 watts. Upgrades will follow. From enthusiasts to enthusiasts An association called "The support group of alternative broadcasting" is responsible for the operation of SWR. The editors and DJ's of the station are mostly members of the association. All members have fulltime jobs elsewhere and no-one is a radio professional at the moment. All the members have sometimes been working on some other radio station, either as a editor or in maintenance. SWR also gives airtime to contributors and students. SWR also relays good quality shows from Radio Marabu and The Big Backyard. The station has been built to an old farmhouse in countryside. There are studio, kitchen, lobby, outside toilet, sauna and a room for sleeping. The antenna tower in the garden is about 20 meters tall. The studio equipment are mostly inexpensive brand name homestereolevel pieces. 2 MD-decks, 3 CD-decks, 2 turntables, 1 MC-deck, 1 mixer and 3 microphones. All programs are recorded with a VHS-homevideorecorder. The incoming calls are feeded into the mixer with the help of a laptop PC with Nokia GSM-card and a hands free set. The antenna for 25 meters is a halfwave dipole antenna, which is hanging in around 20 meters of the ground. In 48 mb SWR uses a special dipole antenna, which is fixed 6 meters of the ground. Freedom and power SWR has no format and no playlists. There is a rule, that over half of the music should be from Finland. SWR aims to play mostly music, that is not played in other radio stations. The editors are encouraged to use other languages than Finnish. English is most common language in programs. The editor makes the final decision. He plays whatever he wants and talks whatever he wants. Almost all programs are broadcasted live. Luckily the music tastes of the SWR editors differ very much. That's why there is lots of different music in different shows. DJ Ville has a show called "Perkele" (= devil), where he plays heavy rock and other black and hard music. DJ Tex Willer loves roots music and plays Rockabilly, country and '50's rock'n'roll in his "Rockin' Rhythm" - show. DJ Hääkää takes it to the limit with techno and dance. SWR has only limited record collection. The editors mostly bring their own records to SWR when they have a show to do. Some record companies have started to send promo copies to SWR. SWR loves to plays them. Especially small independent record companies like the possibility to reach listeners around the Europe. Even though SWR is commercial station, there has been only few advertisers. SWR is not selling radio advertisements actively. The station mostly gets the needed money from the members. The biggest cost for the station are the music copyright fees. Do you want to join? SWR is operated by the volunteers. SWR is open for people who love the radio. SWR gives airtime to enthusiasts who want to be on the air. All of you are very welcome to visit the station during the broadcasts. If you happen to be in Finland around the first Saturday of the month, come to see us. You can find more information and great photos about SWR in SWR-webpages www.swradio.net. You can send questions, reception reports and comments by e-mail to info@swradio.net. The mailing address is SWR, P.O.Box 35, FIN-40321 JYVÄSKYLÄ, Finland. SWR answers to all correct reception reports with a multicolor QSL-card. Just remember to enclose 2 IRC's or 2 USD or 2 EUR with your report. SWR has managed so well, because there has been so many people who have been working so hard to make the dreams come true. DJ Tex Willer the author- was first time applying for a broadcasting license in 1983, he has been producing radio shows to 6 countries and he has been a managing director of a large Finnish local radio station.

Thanks to: Hans Knot, SRS-News, Dr. Tim News, Paul Rusling, Martin van de Ven, Scandinavian Weekend Radio.

Remember: FRS-Holland will be on air on 41 metres 7450 in the weekend of Sept. 21st/22nd. The station will celebrate its 22nd anniversary most likely Sunday October 27th. Whether this will be on 48 or 41 is not for sure at the moment.